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THE HISTORY OF

RICHBOROUGH CASTLE,

Near Sandwich, Kent,

COMPILED FROM THE BEST AUTHORITIES, AND BROUGHT DOWN TO THE LATEST DISCOVERIES;

WITH HISTORICAL NOTICES OF THE

ANCIENT TOWN OF STONAR.

SANDWICH:

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OXFORD

MAY. - 1925

TO

WILLIAM HENRY ROLFE, ESQ.,

Of Sandwich,

THIS WORK IS

Most Respectfully Dedicated,

BY HIS OBLIGED SERVANT,

THE PUBLISHER.

THE HISTORY OF

RICHBOROUGH CASTLE.

RICHBOROUGH, the *Rutupiæ* or *Portus Rutupensis* of the Romans, is a small village in Kent, situate at the mouth of the river Stour. In their time Richborough was an extensive and populous town or city, it being the principal port of arrival from France. The castle was began by Vespasian, the general of the Roman armies, in the reign of Claudius the emperor, and in the year of our Lord 55, and finished by the emperor Severus. The Saxon Kings also had a palace here; but no traces of the ancient town are now to be found. The castle walls—which by their immense mass have alone withstood the ravages of time—are all that is left to perpetuate the name of this once flourishing city.

This city was built southwards on the gentle declivity

of a hill, and its sumptuous edifices facing the ocean, bespoke the taste and elegance of the first nation in the universe in arts and arms. Arviragus, the British king, who had shaken off that subjection to the Romans, to which his undaunted spirit could never be reconciled, had erected a fortress on the highest ground, to descry the transport ships of the Romans, and to impede the landing of their troops, sent by Claudius and commanded by Vespasian. Severianus, called also Severus Afer, the Roman consul, who had the prefecture of this island, added greatly to the strength and beauty of this castle, which was garrisoned at different times by the Herculi, the Batavi, and the Moedian regiments under Lupicinius, appointed governor of Britain by Constantius; the Herculi Victores, and Fidentes, Roman cohorts, under Theodosius, the father of the emperor of the same name, and the second legion Augusta, sent thither to curb the Saxon pirates, were also stationed in this castle. It was besides, an arsenal and a magazine for naval stores, and other provisions requisite for the maintenance of their armies. In the centre of it was erected a tower that overlooked the ocean, where watch was kept night and day, to espy enemies and invaders; and it served also as a phare, to set up night lights for seamen's better and safer guidance into the harbour. The sea, which then flowed up to it, has long since, by reason of the sands cast up

in the haven, abandoned this once flourishing and commercial shore.

While the Romans preserved their sway over the western isle, it was an opulent city, adorned with public and private edifices of that noble architecture, unknown before them. It was also the emporium of Italian wealth and industry, and the safe and commodious port where their forces used to arrive from all those parts of the globe which they had conquered. Clemens Maximus, who commanded the second Legion Augusta which garrisoned this place, and was president over the Kentish coast under the count of the Saxon shore, transplanted here the fine arts from Latium; he caused public baths to be erected; he instituted Latin schools, and introduced into this maritime city the polite manners and the civilization of the Romans, with their luxury. Being proclaimed emperor by the mutinous soldiery in Britain, he appointed president of Rutupia, Flavius Sanctius, who, after his example, added greatly to the lustre, wealth, and reputation of this place. Here Arviragus showed to Vespatian that British spirit, which more than once bade defiance to the Roman Eagle, in attempting to oppose his debarkation; and, near the walls of the city, King Arthur fought a battle against the usurper Mordred, asserting by the sword, the right which his birth and heroic virtues gave him to sovereign power.

Though the true era of Richborough's prosperity was during the auspicious government of the Romans, this city flourished some time under the Saxon Kings.* Ethelbert the First, who ruled over Kent, had his royal palace here; and Augustine the monk, the apostle of Kent, during his residence at Stonar, with his companions, prepared the mind of that monarch, in divers conferences, to abjure idolatry, by professing the Christian faith. The venerable Bede makes an honorable mention of this city, which being forsaken by the successors of Ethelbert, and the grandees who attended at court, its former greatness appeared no longer than by the ruins of deserted palaces, and a few wretched inhabitants descended from those Roman invaders, who had laid the first foundation of

* The Saxons, a warlike people, inhabiting some part of Germany, who by their strength and intrepidity had rendered themselves formidable to all the neighbouring nations. To these people the Britons applied in their distress; and such an application was very agreeable to a set of men who were always looking out for some means of aggrandizing themselves, and enlarging their territories. They therefore readily promised assistance; and accordingly A. D. 449, Hengist and Horsa, two brothers, who were commanders of great valour, landed with 1,500 of their followers in the Isle of Thanet; or it is very probable at the foot of Richborough Hill, which was directly opposite to that island, and where there still remains the vestiges of a convenient wharf: there being joined by the British forces, they marched into Lincolnshire after the Scots and Picts, over whom they soon gained a complete victory.

its fame, extended its commerce, and made it the seat of British wealth and elegance. The Danes,* in their wanton ravages, destroyed the city, castle, and a chapel which Ethelbert had erected, after his conversion, on this spot, where he had received the first tidings of the gospel; and, after this devastation, scarce any vestiges were left of this ancient abode of British worthies, Roman consuls, and Saxon monarchs. Claudius Contentus, and Flavius Sanctius, both prefects of Britain, were buried here.

The site of this city is now a corn-field, remote from all human intercourse and habitation; one can, in some places, yet trace streets crossing each other. Roman coins, both gold and silver, have been often ploughed up here. The river Stour, from Canterbury,

* The first invasion of the Danes that we read of was about the year 820, according to Goldsmith. Hume places it as far back as 794, when a small body of that nation landed on our coasts, and having committed some depredations, escaped in safety to their ships. This encouraged them to repeat the attempt, and in a few years their attacks became truly formidable, since wherever they landed they spread themselves over the face of the country, and carried off not only all the property they could meet with, but even the inhabitants themselves. After carrying on this buccaneering trade for some years, they resolved to form a permanent settlement upon the island, and for this purpose landed in prodigious numbers upon the Isle of Thanet, and there stationed themselves, notwithstanding a great victory gained over them by Ethelwolf, son of Egbert the Great.

runs under the cliff near the ruins of the castle, and continues its course by Sandwich. The castle had two gates, a large one in the middle of the west wall; over the north gate was the figure of a woman's head, which Leland saw in the reign of Henry VIII., but much defaced. At a small distance from it are some remains of an amphitheatre, built by the Romans, which proves the populousness and splendour of this ancient city. A brass cock, the emblem of Æsculapius, was dug up within the castle; the chapel, for the use of the neighbouring inhabitants, was within its precinct; it was dependent of the mother church of Ash; after the reformation it went to ruins; the spot where it stood is still visible. There was, in Leland's time, a hermitage in the castle, and near it a cave, where men had dug for treasure, as he learned from the hermit.

The first origin of the port of Sandwich was owing to the decay of that of Richborough, and where this town now stands is supposed, in the time of the Romans and before the decay of the haven of *Portus Rutupensis* to have been covered with that water which formed the bay of it, which was so large that it is said to have extended far beyond this place, on the one side almost to Ramsgate cliffs and on the other near five miles in width, over the whole of that flat of land on which Stonar and Sandwich were afterwards built, and extending from thence up to

the estuary which then flowed up between the Isle of Thanet and the main land of this county.

During the time of the Saxons the haven and port of Richborough, the most frequented of any in this part of Britain, began to decay and swarve up, the sea by degrees entirely deserting it at this place, but still leaving sufficient to form a large and commodious one at Sandwich, which in process of time became in like manner the usual resort for shipping and arose a flourishing harbour in its stead; from which time the Saxon fleets as well as those of the Danes are said by the historians of those times, to sail for the port of Sandwich, and there to lie at different times; but no further mention is made of that of Richborough, which being thus destroyed, Sandwich became the port of general resort, which as well as the building of the town, seems to have taken place, however, some time after the establishment of the Saxons in Britain, and the first time that is found of the name of Sandwich being mentioned and occuring as a port is in the life of St. Wilfred Archbishop of York, written by Eddius Stephanus, in which it is said he and his company, *prospere in portum Sandwich atque suaviter pervenerunt,* happily and pleasantly arrived in the harbour of Sandwich, which happened about the year 665 or 666, somewhat more than 200 years after the arrival of the Saxons in Britain. During the time of the

Danes infesting this kingdom, several of their principal transactions happened at this place, and the port of it became so much frequented that the author of Queen Emma's life styles it the most noted of all the English ports. *Sandwich qui est omnium Anglorum Portuna famosissimus.*

So late as the first year of King Richard III., ships sailed up this haven as high as Richborough; for in that year, as appears by the corporation books of Sandwich, the mayor ordered a Spanish ship lying on the outside of Richborough to be removed.

The following extract is taken from the Sandwich manuscript, collected from the ancient chronicles of Matth. Paris, Math. Westmonast, — Roff, Thomas Sprotteus,* and other ancient records:

"In the year of grace 52, Arviragus king of Britain refused obedience to the Roman empire: whereupon Vespasian, a noble captain of the Romans, was sent into Britain by Claudius the emperor, to repress the insolence of Arviragus, and to reduce him to his former subjection; Vespasian accordingly attempted to land his forces in the haven of Rutupi or Richborough, now called Sandwich haven, but was there by Arviragus repulsed and kept from landing.

* His name is thus differently written: Sprottæus, Spottus, Sprottus.

"Long afterwards, partly by the ravages of time, and more by the force and fury of the Danes making havock of all things in the county of Kent, and especially in Thanet, the city of Rutupi, with the castle now called Richborough Castle, was utterly destroyed by fire and sword—such was the rage of king Swayne and his Danes in the year 990.

"The ancient castle of Rutupi now Richborough was built by Vespasian,* who was then general of the Romans in Britain, and sent thither by the mighty emperor Claudius, Arviragus then reigning in Britain; Vespasian, after he had obtained the victory and subdued the Britons, built the castle of Richborough for the safeguard and defence of his navy; which castle the Britons called the castle of Rutupi, as who should say, the castle built upon the rock or upon the coast of Rutupi, taking the name of the place; for during the time of the Roman government all the castles of Kent eastward was of Ptolomy called the castle of Rutupi; as also witnesseth Lucan:

* Mr. Freeman, of Minster, in his "Regulbium," a poem of some merit, which deserves to be better known, especially for the notes attached to it, observes,—"Under what Emperor these walls were erected history is silent, and conjecture would be unavailing, suffice it to say, that it is likely they were among the first, if not the very first grand works of the Romans in Britain."

"Aut vaga cum Tethys Rutupinaque littora fervent,
"Unda Caledonios fallit turbata Britannos.

"When ocean wildly breaks on Richboros' coast,
"The surges baffle Caledonia's host.

"This most ancient castle, situate in the mouth of the haven of Rutupi now called Sandwich haven, was begun in the year of grace 55, not far from the ancient town of Stonar in the isle of Thanet, and was perfected by Severus the emperor, who then govened the Britons, as appears by the ancient coins and money commonly found in the ruins and about the said castle of Richborough, having the impression and inscription of Severus: which Severus was the chief builder of castles, forts, and walls of all the Romans in Britain; he walled in Dover, built the castle of Reculfe or Reculver in the isle of Tindelade, as is made manifest by the ancient coins which are found thereabouts bearing his impression.

"Besides, he built a strong and famous wall, called Severus wall, between the Britons and Scots or Picts, in the north parts of Britain all the breadth of the land from sea to sea."

The ancient castle of Rutupi or Richborough, was, in the time of the Saxons a famous palace of the kings of Kent, and it is reported by Thomas Sprotteus, a monk of St. Augustine's, in his history of the Kings of Kent,

who says, "Ethelbert, king of Kent, after he had given away his palace in Dorobernia, for so the Saxons called that city which we now call Canterbury, as one might say the court of Kent, for the ancient palace of king Lucius in the time of the Romans was situate near unto the most ancient church dedicated to our Saviour, Christ, now called Christ Church; which palace of the kings at Canterbury the king gave unto Augustine and his successors for ever, after that he had received the faith of Christ and was by him baptized. He gave also unto him all the city of Canterbury, excepting certain especial lands belonging to his crown. After which donation, and departure from his palace in Canterbury, he made his continual abode in his castle of Richborough."

The extensive tract of marsh land lying between Thanet and Walmer, and extending from the shore to Canterbury, was formerly the bed of the Portus Rutupensis, and in all probability was covered with the sea at the time the Romans were in this country. A strong presumptive proof of this is, that no remains whatever of that people occur anywhere throughout this flat district; whereas we meet with coins and other Roman matters the moment we ascend the rising borders of the marsh. There is positive evidence that the sea approached, at some distant period, to the very foot of

Richborough hill; for in digging a few years ago to lay the foundation of Richborough sluice, the workmen, after penetrating through what was once the muddy bed of the river that runs close by in a more contracted channel than formerly, came to a regular sandy sea shore, that had been suddenly covered with silt, on which lay broken and entire shells, oysters, sea weeds, the purse of the thornback, a small shoe with a metal fibula in it, and some small human bones; all of them, except the last article, with the same appearance of freshness as such things have on the shore at this day. And even now, though the ground has been so much raised by repeated depositions of mud, the whole of the marsh land between Deal and Thanet would be overflown by every extraordinary spring tide, were it not for the natural barrier raised by the surge of the sea against itself, and the artificial banks thrown up along the haven of Sandwich.

Richborough hill is entirely surrounded by marsh land, and undoubtedly was an island when the bay existed. On this insulated mount stands the remains of the famous castle of Rutupi, exhibiting to our view a more perfect specimen of Roman architecture than exists anywhere else in Britain. The walls are constructed in the following manner: Two rows of bolders lie on the natural soil which is a solid pitsand, then a thin

stratum of chalk noddles; next a single row of bolders, and over them another thin layer of small chalk; all without cement: then bolders again mixed with mortar; and so the masonry proceeds internally with a confused mixture of large bolders, ochre stones, sand stone, blocks of chalk with pholades bedded therein and balani on their surfaces; the whole cemented with a mortar formed of lime, grit, large and small pebbles, sea shells, and fragments of baked bricks, much too coarse in its composition ever to have been fluid.* Externally on both

* Mr. Freeman, in his "Regulbium," previously noticed, says,—"I am not aware that modern chemistry so happily applied to explain various phenomena of natural philosophy, has thrown any light upon this property of Roman masonry observed in Britain. Was there anything peculiar in the mode of preparing their cement, or of proportioning its ingredients which could give it this firmness of cohesion; or is it merely an effect of some gradual process going on imperceptibly during the lapse of ages? It is a curious question, and deserves the attention of our chemical philosophers. I have repeatedly examined the mortar or cement from the walls of Richborough with some attention, and have found it to consist of lime, not mixed in the modern way with pit sand, but with fragments of flint, small pebbles, portions of brick, and occasionally pieces of charcoal, which might remain after the burning of the lime. That these several ingredients were not united previously to their being used, I am led to suspect from the appearance of the cement in various parts of Richborough wall; the union I think was effected as follows:—The boulders, or large flint pebbles, being laid in order, small pebbles, fragments of flint and bricks, were shaken over them in such a manner, as to insi-

sides, the walls are faced with regular courses of squared grit and portland stone, except in some detached parts of the inner side of the south wall where the squared stones are small in size, and are mixed with bolders, and disposed in the herring-bone way and in other fashions. The general facing was evidently worked up with the internal part; but as the squared stones could be applied to the rubble work only with a flat surface, it was necessary to band them together at proper intervals with

nuate them between the intervals of the boulders; a thin mixture of pure lime and water being prepared, was then poured over the whole, which mixture was sufficiently dilute to fill up completely the remaining interstices, and produce when dry one solid mass. Some writers think that these walls were formed in frames or caissons of wood; to this opinion, however, I cannot subscribe. I have repeatedly and carefully examined Richborough wall, and am confident no such caissons were used in its formation; and for the following reasons:—No appearance exists of their separate endings. Each front of the wall having a facing of hewn stone well squared, as may be seen in the north front, which is very well preserved, these facings when laid would of themselves constitute a frame or case, and supersede the necessity of using caissons of wood. The distances between the several fillets or bands of brickwork are not the same all the way up the wall, but differ in the proportion of from three to four feet, which would not have been the case had one and the same caisson been used; in fact the distances were determined not by any given height, but by a certain number of layers of hewn stone. A better reason may be given for the use of these bands of brick work, than merely that they were foundations for wooden frames; they were

double rows of large flat tiles, which however do not go through the wall, but only to the depth of one or at most two tiles. The first range of tiles begins about five feet from the bottom of the wall, and the rows are repeated to the top at different intervals, from three feet three inches to four feet three inches: between these are generally seven courses of the squared stones; but in the eastern part of the north wall the rows vary from six to nine. The tiles are for the most part plain, and differ

doubtless used for the purpose to which bond timber is applied in modern buildings, to give firmness and strength to the masonry until it had acquired those properties from time, and the necessity for their use in this respect will be readily admitted, when it is considered that the materials in other parts are smooth and round flint pebbles. These bands of brickwork may still with propriety be termed foundations; for such they were if not to wooden frames, yet certainly to the rude masonry of their superstructures. There can, I presume, be no doubt but that whole legions of armies were employed in the building of these magnificent walls, as they were in the formation of the military roads. In this case it is easy to imagine a regular division and appropriation of labour. The masons by trade were employed in laying the courses or foundations of brick work, and raising upon them the two faces of hewn stone; others were appointed to dispose in some order the large flint pebbles or boulders; the more inexperienced were set to complete the work, by spreading the rubbish, and pouring in the liquid mortar to connect the whole. By this regular mode of proceeding, a whole legion being employed, the walls of Richborough, immense as they are, might have been raised in no very considerable length of time.

in their dimensions from 14 in. by $7\frac{3}{4}$ in. to $17\frac{1}{2}$ in. by $11\frac{1}{2}$ in., and in their thickness from $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. to $1\frac{3}{4}$ in. There is another sort, with the longest sides dished about an inch, that occurs very sparingly in the south and west walls. They are about $15\frac{1}{2}$ in. long, a foot broad, and an inch thick. They are ranged with the flat tiles here and there one, and are generally with their bottoms upwards. A few of the plain tiles are of a pale yellowish red, but both sorts for the most part are of a fine full red, and all of them are exceedingly well burned. The walls to the height of six feet are 11 feet 3 inches thick, and afterwards only 10 feet 8 inches; and the north wall in its most perfect part is about 23 feet high: the top of the wall is everywhere imperfect, and the facing is almost wholly thrown off from the southern aspects of the walls by the roots of the ivy, and the operations of heat and moisture. The scaffold holes remain on the outer sides of the north and west walls, which sides have suffered much less injury from time and the weather than the other sides.

The castle has been a regular parallelogram, but a great part of the east wall does not appear; that having been undermined by the sea; enough of it however remains to point out its direction and situation. The whole site occupied 6 a. 1 r. 8 p. of ground; the area within the walls measured 5 a. 3 r. 8 p. There was no

ditch round the building, and the foundation is very superficial; nor has any well been discovered: which circumstances make it probable that it was erected merely to prevent the sudden attack of an invading enemy, and could not be intended for the regular defence of any fixed community within the walls. The walls were flanked by round projecting towers at the angles, and by square ones at irregular distances along the sides. There are marks of two of these in the west wall, and of two others, besides the porta decumana, in the north wall, and of two more in the south wall; in which undoubtedly was a third that has fallen down the bank. These square towers, projecting about eight feet from the wall, were solid nearly eight feet from the foundation, and afterwards hollow. In the main wall within these towers are four large round smooth holes in a row, each about nine inches in diameter, and penetrating about eight feet into the substance of the main wall: below these are smaller holes, four inches in diameter, that run about ten inches into the wall; all which seem to have served for the insertion of beams to support an apparatus of defensive machinery.

Within the area of the castle, not precisely in the centre, but somewhat towards the north-east corner, under ground, is a solid rectangular platform of masonry 144 feet 5 inches long, 104 feet wide, and five feet thick.

It is a composition of bolders and coarse mortar, and the whole upper surface to the very verge is covered over with a coat of the same sort of mortar six inches thick. In the middle of the platform is the base of a superstructure in the shape of a cross, rising somewhat above the ground and from four to five feet above the platform. It has been faced with squared stones, some of which remain. The shaft of the cross, running north and south, is 87 feet long and 7 feet 5 inches broad; the traverse is 22 feet in width and 46 feet in length. A base of such solidity could scarcely have been intended for the support of a roof, or have formed a part of any compound building. Might there not have been on this spot a lofty sea mark to direct the mariner, or a cross to solicit his devotion? Might it not have been St. Austin's cross; a name which the people there, in Camden's time, misapplied to the crossings in the corn, but which might belong to this mass of masonry, raised perhaps by the public to commemorate the happy arrival of St. Augustine into Britain, and his landing at the foot of this very hill.

In the west wall, much nearer to the north-west angle of the castle than to the south-west, was a large opening in the wall 34 feet wide, where about 5½ feet under the ground is part of a foundation of large squared blocks of stone, consisting of several courses, a great part of

which has been removed and applied to various uses about the neighbouring farms. It extends inwards 7½ feet, and outwards six feet two inches from the wall, so that the whole breadth of the platform, including the breadth of the wall, was originally 24 feet 11 inches. The lewisses by which they were raised remain in some of the stones. The two parts of the wall do not run from this opening in the same direction; the south-west corner bearing from it S. 14 degrees 15 minutes W. the north west corner N. 12 degrees 25 minutes E. There is no appearance whatever of any superstructure, that might have been raised upon this platform and connected with the walls, the ends of which are terminated with regular facings. It may therefore be difficult to determine the uses of this opening and platform. If this was the principal entrance into the castle, there must have originally been some grand fortified gate raised upon this foundation for the security of so wide a passage; but no traces of such a structure appear either on what remains of the platform or on the facings of the walls. Some have been induced to think it was the site of an altar or temple sacred to Diana, from the exuviæ of animals usually sacrificed to that goddess that abound just at that spot; but surely some place would have been selected for the celebration of holy rites less exposed than this to the first attacks of an enemy. Near

the middle of the north wall is the oblique entrance or porta decumana: it is narrow, and from the holes remaining in the walls it appears to have been furnished with good timber defences. The exterior passage running parallel with the main wall is about 4½ feet wide, having a channel or gutter at the bottom for carrying off water from the higher ground within the castle; the interior passage at a right angle with the other is seven feet eight inches wide.

The true bearing of the north and south wall is about S. 76 degrees 30 minutes E.

The centre of the amphitheatre bears S. 46 degrees W. from the south-west angle of the castle, at the distance of about 460 yards. It was without subsellia or seats; at least there are no remains of such conveniences in the present excavation. This was commonly the case in the castrensian amphitheatre, and the people stood during the exhibition of the sports. From the north west to the south-east points it measures 68 yards, and is 11½ feet deep; in the opposite direction it is 70 yards over and seven feet deep. The depth without doubt was once much greater, the margins having been constantly wearing away by the operations of husbandry.

A building was discovered some years ago in the plain at the foot of the bank about 40 rods to the northward of the castle, which had the appearance of a wharf or

landing place. Its surface was a little way under ground; it was four feet high; of a triangular form, the sides nearly equal, of about ten feet each, one of them parallel with the bank and its opposite angle projecting towards the sea. It was a shell of brickwork, two bricks thick, filled with earth; the two projecting sides tied together with a brace of the same materials. Two sorts of bricks were used in this building, one was 18 inches by 12, and 3½ inches thick; the other 17 inches by 11, and 1¼ thick. The bricks or tiles were all purchased by a gentleman residing in London, who paved a court yard and part of his house with them.

Three urns were taken out of a sand pit on the hill on the left hand of the road leading from the castle to the village; and besides coins there have been found within and without the walls two small bronze figures of bagpipers, supplying the bag with wind through a pipe by the mouth, and playing on the instrument with the fingers; and another bronze figure with a flask in the right hand, and having had something in the left, most likely to drink out of, marks of which remain. Fragments of pateræ, plain and ornamented, mixed with pieces of stagshorn and oystershells abound about the north west corner of the castle; and "I have," says Dr. Boys, "from the area a fine onyx of an oval shape, evidently designed for a ring, to which use I have ap

plied it, and have had it set in a mixture of gold, silver, and copper found at Richborough."

A sand pit at Ash, adjoining to the high road from thence to Canterbury, has furnished many curious sepulchral remains, that were deposited with the dead in wood coffins. The graves are distinct, and are four feet below the present surface of the ground. They are discoverable by an alteration in the colour and texture of the soil where the bodies lie; and they are commonly, though not uniformly, in an east and west direction. Parts of the harder bones and of the wooden cists are sometimes found; but in general all the animal and vegetable substances have perished. In many of the graves we meet with nothing worth notice; in some are found the warriors furniture, iron swords, spear-heads, and umbones of shields; and in others fibulæ, buckles, clasps, belt ornaments, amulets, pendants, &c., many of them of the precious metals or of copper strongly gilt, set with ivory, and with garnets and coloured glass upon checkered foils of solid gold; beads of baked earth, amber and amethyst, and glass bugles, the ornaments of female dress. Perhaps the following articles may seem to denote the occupation, or perhaps only the caprice, of the persons in whose graves they were found: A wooden pail with brass hoops; a large pan of mixed metal found upon a smaller one inverted; the iron head of an axe;

part of a beam and brass balances of a small pair of scales, with one leaden and seven brass weights, two of them being coins of Faustina the mother and daughter, with their reverses ground away, having a single dot before the mouth of the one, and six dots 3 and 3 upon the temple of the other, probably to denote the weight; a stone celt lying with a common flat flint stone; a crystal ball; thick copper rings; and many articles of unknown use.

This place is supposed by some to have been the cemetery of the Roman garrison at Richborough; but the distance is too great; nor will the proportion of military persons buried here at all countenance the idea. It was more probably the place of interment for the neighbouring hamlets before the consecration of churchyards. There are such hills of sand at Wingham and Woodnesborough, that were set apart for the same purpose, and which have furnished antiquarians with a variety of sepulchral remains.

We are indebted to a gentleman resident in Sandwich, celebrated for his antiquarian pursuits, for the following information.

"In the midst of the area of the castle lies the remarkable mass of masonry called the platform, the surface of which is covered with soil to the depth of about two feet six inches. This masonry is 144 feet long and

104 feet wide, and is composed of boulder stones firmly cemented together, having an uniformly smooth and flat surface and extending downwards six feet in thickness. Dr. Boys, the author of the *History of Sandwich*, excavated to the bottom of this platform, a depth of about nine feet, and penetrated under its lower surface. He concluded that it was simply a solid parallelogram of masonry, and imagined that it might be the pretorium, or general's station in the castle.

"In the year 1823, some gentlemen, anxious to ascertain the nature and object of such an extraordinary body of masonry, employed several workmen to dig beside the north-east edge of the platform; they found this mass of masonry to extend downwards, exactly as Dr. Boys has described it; but, what is still more extraordinary, in penetrating underneath this mass, they discovered a solid perpendicular wall, about ten feet from the edge of the platform, and by which the platform itself is supported; this perpendicular wall extends downwards, 23 feet below the surface, and probably to a much greater depth; but, at the time, the water flowed in, and prevented any further excavation.

"In Leland's time, (Henry VIII.) a recluse lived and died on this spot, having excavated a cave for himself on the high bank facing the sea. This cave was found and entered by some of the gentlemen above named,

and entered by some of the gentlemen above-named, but as it was attended with considerable danger by reason of the loose and sandy nature of the soil, the aperture or cave was filled up, after ascertaining, pretty nearly, its direction and extent.

"The curious antiquary will survey with great interest the peculiar structure of the wall to the north, which is far more perfect than the other parts, where an entrance to the area will be found admirably calculated to have offered great resistance to unwelcome visitors to the castle. Boys calls this the porta decumana.

"The numismatist and antiquary have furnished their cabinets with many rarities from Richborough. In gold, but one coin of Arcadius, in fine condition, is known to have been found since the period when Mr. Boys wrote his *History of Sandwich*, (appended to which history is a concise account of Richborough.) The imperial Roman silver coins generally extend from those of Vespasian down to the lower empire, though some few have been found as early as the reign of Nero. The Roman brass coins are found from the time of Augustus to the latest period of the empire; those of the Constantine family most abundantly. Some rare and curious specimens of the Saxon sceattæ and penny have of late years been found in the castle field: of the former, that engraved in Ruding, plate 1, No. 25,

we have seen, in the finest state of preservation. Two unpublished pennies of Offa and Berhtalf have very recently been found; the type of the sceattæ, is the well-known one of the Romans, representing Romulus and Remus suckled by the wolf, proving that the Saxon's antipathy to the Romans did not prevent their imitating them in their works of art."

AN HISTORICAL ACCOUNT

OF THE

ANCIENT TOWN OF STONAR.

STONORE, or Stonar, anciently written Eastanore and Eastanores—signifying the eastern border, shore, or coast—is now situate on the south side of the Isle of Thanet on the river Stour, a little to the north-east of Sandwich, by which river it is divided from the town, and made part of the island. The town stood on a rising ground near the place where the Wantsum ran towards the downs eastward, and made the old haven which is now filled up.

The town of Stonar probably reached to the shore of the Wantsum, which in its flourishing state was of sufficient breadth for large fleets to pass through it on their way to London. At this time the Stour seems to be reduced to an invariable breadth and depth, as

they are proportionate to the quantity of water it reserves, and the rapidity of the current.

From the advantage of its situation, after the waters had deserted Ebbsfleet, Stonar became for some time the common landing place in the isle of Thanet, and likewise a town and port of considerable note. The town was of great fame in the time of king Ethelbert, about the year of grace 616, at which place Canute with his Danes landed in the haven of Rutupi, and there entered with all his navy. St. Augustine, with his companions, about forty in number, also landed here, having been sent by Gregory the Bishop of Rome, where he tarried until king Ethelbert gave him audience in the castle of Richborough. Turkill the Dane is said also to have landed here in the year 1009, and fought the English, and afterwards to have burnt the town; and the author of the *Life of Queen Emma* says, that having arrived in the port of Sandwich, he drew up his army in order of battle against the English at a place called Scroraston; but what else, says Dr. Battely in his *Antiq. Rutupiæ*, is Scroraston, than by transposition, Eastanscore; and Eastanscore and Eastanore, those skilful in the Saxon language know to be the same. The town was, however, not long afterwards rebuilt, and notwithstanding the encreasing prosperity of its opposite rival, remained a port some time after the Norman

conquest, as appears by *Thorn's Chronicle*, who says that in the year 1090 the citizens of London claimed the lordship or seignory of Stonar, as a sea-port subject to that city, against the abbot of St. Augustine, his men and homages.

Lewis, in his *History of Tenet*, gives an account of this place, and mentions a grant of the manor of Eastanores to the abbey of St. Austin, by Canute, the Danish king, in the year 1015, who being settled on the throne by the defeat and murder of Edmund Ironside, gave it as an atonement for his crimes and to ingratiate himself with the religious; but Boys observes, "if there had been any such grant it would most probably have been mentioned by Thorn, or the compiler of the *Chronologia* in the Decem Scriptores. Lewis is mistaken in attributing No. LIII. to the conqueror, that grant is by his son, William II. If any of the evidences there belong to William I. it must be No. LIV., and it must have been in the last year of his reign, about the year 1087, as Wydo was not abbot till that year; but it was very likely to have been a grant of William Rufus, in the first year of his reign 1088; and it is probably the very deed of that date, where the name of Stonar first occurs in the *Chronologia*. It is doubtful whether there is any mention of this place to be met with in any writer whatever of an earlier date."

In the year 1091, William the conqueror decreed that St. Augustine and the abbot Wido should firmly and honourably hold all their rights and customs at Estanores, as well on the water as on the land.

In 1104 the abbot obtained a charter for a fair to be kept yearly for five successive days, before and after the feast of the translation of St. Augustine. Another abbot obtained in 1193 a charter for a market to be kept weekly at Stonar, which charter was afterwards confirmed. On the decline of this town both the fair and the market were discontinued.

The abbot also kept a court here, where he claimed the right of judging and punishing in cases of life and death; but this jurisdiction of the abbot was contested by the men of Stonar, who refused to hold their lands and tenements in Stonar of the barony of the abbot, and to screen themselves from their vassalage they united themselves to the port of Sandwich. In the doomsday book of the cinque ports, drawn in 1086, the town of Stonar is recorded as a limb or member of Sandwich, but the king took the abbot's part and gave the cause to him. A jury of knights was empannelled in 1266 by the sheriff who gave it for the abbot, that the town of Stonar was no member of the cinque ports and gildable to the king; but king Edward granting a new charter to Sandwich, Stonar claimed again to be a member of that

port, and offered to maintain one of the five vessels allotted to be found for that port, at its own charges, whenever Sandwich should be summoned to man out ships; but this, it seems was not then granted.

In 1368, 43rd Edward III., John Dennis, the mayor of Sandwich, Solomon Leverske, and others, were attached to answer a plea of trespass by Robert de Stoko, sheriff of Kent, who prosecuted for the king. Solomon Leverske pleaded that he would not answer but in the court of Shepway, and said that Stonar was a member of the ports belonging to the port of Sandwich, and that they were not to answer. The sheriff replied that the town of Stonar was of the barony of the king, belonging to the barony of St. Austin's, and demanded judgment. Solomon and others not having made sufficient defence, were committed to gaol; and the mayor, (as representing the commonalty) being found guilty, the corporation lost their privileges.

The same year the abbot pleaded that the town of Stonar was in the county of Kent, and a parcel of the barony of St. Augustine's, and without the bounds and limits of the cinque ports, all which he said he was ready to prove, and therefore demanded judgment against some men of Stonar, guilty of a trespass on his see; they put themselves on their country, on which a precept was sent to the sheriff to summon a jury of 12 men, who

being chosen, challenged, and sworn, brought in their verdict for the abbot, and gave him 20 marks for the damage he had sustained by the said transgression.

Notwithstanding this verdict, Thorne is firmly of opinion that the town of Stonar was under the jurisdiction of the mayor of Sandwich, who being elected and sworn on the Monday after St. Andrew's, according to an ancient custom, caused by his common serjeant his horn to be blown at certain places in the town of Stonar the next week after his election, or when he saw fit, and made proclamation by the said serjeant for the meeting of the community of Stonar at certain places appointed for that purpose.

The said mayor, with the jurats of Sandwich, and the whole community of Stonar, appointed for a deputy some honest man of the town, who exercised the like office of mayoralty in all things as the mayor of Sandwich did there, except in giving judgments, because only judgment or sentence was given by the mayor of Sandwich, within the limits of the town of Stonar, from the said town to Hennebergh, now called Littlejoy, and Pepernesse. The mayor likewise at this meeting caused to be there solemnly read by his clerk, the same ordinances which they had in the town of Sandwich.

Item, they had the cognizance before them of the rents of the lands and tenements, in general and par-

ticular, as they had in the town of Sandwich, and they enrolled them in their common register.

Item, all pleas of the crown of life and limb were to be determined within the town of Stonar, before the mayor and jurats, after the accustomed form of the town of Sandwich, saving an appeal for counterfeiting the king's coin, sedition, speaking against the king or queen, or falsifying the king's seal, which are things pertaining to the court of Shepway, neither is there in the town of Sandwich and Stonar any judge of the crown, who is commonly called coroner, but the mayor himself with the jurats.

Thorne calls these claims of the mayor of Sandwich on the town of Stonar a yoke of slavery, to which the men of Stonar rather subjected themselves than to be governed by the ancient liberty of their country, because they thought it an easier yoke than that which the abbots of St. Augustine would have imposed on them, by making the town of Stonar a parcel of their barony, and bringing it within the jurisdiction of their court.

By an award drawn in 1242, by some prudent men, to whom Robert, abbot of St. Augustine, and Roger, prior of Christ Church, Canterbury, had referred their differences, it was finally determined that the prior and chapter should enjoy all the maritime customs in the port of Sandwich on both sides of the river, according

to the tenor and usage of their charters; so that, notwithstanding the abbot and convent of St. Augustine's, in the town of Stonar, and the lands belonging to it shall have the lordship and accustomed usage.

The tenants of Stonar withdrew themselves from the protection of the convent of the abbey of St. Augustine, and united themselves to the port of Sandwich; which is enumerated among the members of that port in an ordinance of king Henry III. in the year 1229; this occasioned many legal disputes between the abbot and the people of Stonar, and between the abbot and the corporation of Sandwich, who undoubtedly did formerly exercise jurisdiction in Stonar, though now it was totally detached from Sandwich and the cinque ports.*

In a manuscript register of St. Augustine's, belonging to Dr. Farmer, the tenants of Stonar seem to have been acknowledged by the convent as ports-men, and it appears to have beeen a custom for every man in Stonar to give to the bailiff a bridle upon his marriage, or sixpence in lieu thereof.

* In the year 1773, Robert Keeler, mayor, it was agreed at a common assembly that judgment upon record be forthwith entered up in his Majesty's Court of King's Bench at Westminster. confessing that Stonar is not within the jurisdiction of Sandwich, but in the county at large, and that £100 be paid for Lord Dudley's costs and expences.

In the same book Stonar is said to consist of 404 acres and to be part of the manor of Minster.

In the last year of king John, anno 1216, Lewis the dauphin of France landed here, where having refreshed his army he marched to Sandwich, and was there joined by the rebellious barons of his party.*

In the reign of King Edward I. there was a great inundation of the sea here; to enquire into the cause of which, and to prevent the like in future, a solemn inquisition was taken at this place by commissioners appointed by the king for that purpose. There was a John de Stonore who was appointed in the 14th year of king Edward II. one of the justices of the Common Pleas in the room of John Bacun; and another of the same name, who was one of the friar's preachers and an eminent divine in the year above-mentioned, and had, together with Robert de Braybrock and Robert de Hattcombe ,brothers likewise of the same order, the king's safe conduct on their intentions to go and preach the gospel to the Saracens.

King Edward III. on October 11, in his 33rd year, anno 1359 lodged at Stonar in a house formerly Robert Goviere's, and was attended by many of his nobles and great men, then waiting to embark at Sandwich for foreign parts; on which day the chancellor in the king's

* Rapin's "History of England," vol. 1, p. 278.

chamber delivered up the great seal, and had another delivered to him to use during the king's absence. He staid here till the 28th, when he embarked before sunrise, and with his nobility and other attendants set sail for Calais. In the 39th year of the same reign there happened hereabouts another terrible inundation of the sea for the space of above three miles in length from Cliffsend to Stonar, insomuch that the town of Stonar was almost destroyed by it, and it was feared that unless some speedy assistance could be had, all the low lands or marshes in the hundreds of Ryngesloe, Wingham, Preston, and Downhermford, that is all the levels from the sea to Wingham, Canterbury, &c., would be overflowed. Whereupon the king commissioned Sir Ralph Spiguruel, constable of Dover Castle and others, to enquire into the true state of this matter, and to endeavour to secure the houses, lands, &c.

But what is said to have been the entire ruin of this town, was the firing of it by the French in the 9th year of King Richard II. anno 1385, who being invited over by the treachery of Sir Simon de Burley, constable of Dover Castle and lord warden of the cinque ports, to invade the kingdom, first plundered, and afterwards set this town on fire and burnt it. Of this attempt it seems the abbot of St. Augustine had intelligence, and accordingly got his tenants together at Northbourne, and

marched them armed to the aid of his other tenants in this island; but coming to Sandwich, he was, by the lord warden's order, refused a free passage into the island, and so was forced to march round by Fordwich and Sturry, and come into the island at Sarre. This taking up a good deal of time, gave opportunity to the enemy to execute their design; but on receiving an account of the abbot's coming against them, they retired to their ships, and left the rest of the island untouched.* Some of the foundations of the buildings destroyed as above-mentioned were remaining not many years ago, and the traces are still visible among the corn.

After this the town of Stonar never recovered its former state; and the waters having forsook this place, it remained no longer a port, but became insignificant and almost desolate, the remaining inhabitants consisting of a few fishermen and lookers after the cattle and husbandry business of it.

Leland, in his *Itinerary*, vol. vii. p. 127, gives this account of Stonar in the time of king Henry VIII. "Stonard," says he, "ys yn Thanet, sumtyme a pretty town not far from Sandwich. Now appereth alonly the ruin of the chirch. Sum ignorant people call it Old Sandwiche."

* Decem. Scriptores, col. 2181.

At present there are three houses in Stonar, only one of which is situated where the town of Stonar anciently stood; about 20 rods from which, near the road, on a little rising bank, stood the church, of which there are now no remains left above-ground. Some salt-works were formerly carried on here, of a curious construction. The process of making the salt was thus:—the water was drawn during the summer months into broad shallow pans of great extent, where having continued until its watery particles had been exhaled by the sun, it was then conveyed into large boilers and chrystalized in the usual manner by evaporation. The salt thus prepared was found to partake of the qualities of bay salt and to answer all its purposes; having this advantage, that being perfectly transparent, it exceled it in the beauty of its appearance.

It appears that some part of the land of Stonar was formerly "bounded and taken into" the parish and assessed to the relief of the poor of St. Clement's, Sandwich.

This parish is very small, being about two miles from north to south, and about one mile at the broadest from east to west. It is encircled on three sides by the river Stour; and on the north by a cut across the land in length about a quarter of a mile, from one part of the river Stour to the opposite one, having proper flood-

gates across it, to be worked at certain times only, according to the direction of the act of Parliament passed in 1775, for the purpose of draining more effectually those levels adjoining the river Stour, usually called the General Vallies, and for other purposes. The passing of this act was strenuously opposed by the mayor, jurats, and inhabitants of Sandwich, at a very great expense, upon a supposition that the new-made cut would, in the process of time, be the means of diverting the channel of the river Stour from the town, of Sandwich, and so become the total ruin of it.

At the south end of this parish was a ferry over the river Stour, which belonged to St. Bartholomew's Hospital at Sandwich; in lieu of which a bridge was built in 1755, by an act passed for that purpose.

This estate, after the dissolution of St. Augustine's monastery remained in the crown till the 22nd of June, in the 4th and 5th of Philip and Mary, (1558), when it was granted, with right of patronage to the church, to Nicholas Cryspe, Esq., and his assigns for his life, and after his decease to his brother John Cryspe in fee; it being at that time under lease from the crown to John Johnson, *alias* Anthony, gent., for a term of 21 years, from the 10th of May, 1554, at the yearly rent of £23, and it was valued to the grantee at £621, or 27 years' purchase. The whole sum paid, however, was

£637 13s. 4d. This estate continued in the family of Cryspe till it ended in four daughters and coheirs, one of which marrying Richard Breton, Esq., of Elmes, in the parish of Hougham, he bought the interest of the other three sisters and became the sole proprietor. He sold it afterwards to Sir George Rook, knight, of St. Lawrence, near Canterbury, and it descended to his son George, who married the Hon. Frances Ward, eldest daughter of William Lord Dudley. Upon her death, in 1770, it came by her will to her nephew, the Hon. John Ward, Esq., afterwards Lord Viscount Dudley and Ward, who sold it in 1787 to Charles Foreman, Esq., of London, who, dying in 1791, bequeathed it to his nephew, Mr. John Foreman in tail general; with remainder in like manner to his other nephew Mr. Luke Foreman; with remainder in fee to the Rev. James Carpenter Gape.

The commissioners in valuing this estate estimated the quantity of land and the annual value per acre in the following manner:

"The sayd marshe conteyneth in freshe and salt marshe over and besides 12 acres covered with stone bache 303 acres, valued after sondry rates at £32 5s. 3d. by yere; that is to say cxl. acres and a halfe of fresh marshe at 3s. 4d. the acre, xxiv. acres of salt marshe at 12d. the acre; xxvi. acres of salt marshe over flowen

at every springe tyde at 6d. the acre; xxx. acres of salt marshe overflowen at every springe tyde, at 1s. the acre; and clx. acres of salt marshe at 8d. the acre.

"The clere yerely value of the premysses £23. The teaneure in chief by knightes servyce."

When the estate was sold to Mr. Foreman, the annual rent was estimated at £880, and the price was £22,000.

In the year 1242, the prior and chapter of Christ Church, Canterbury, entered into a composition with the abbot and convent of St. Augustine, respecting their respective possessions at Sandwich, Stonar, and other places in that neighbourhood. The prior and his chapter grant to the abbot and monks a free passage by Sandwich river to Minster fleet, reserving to themselves their maritime dues from such vessels as shall cast anchor in the said river before the fleet, whether to load or unload, or to do any other business there. In the fleet itself they will not for the future claim any jurisdiction, but they reserve to themselves and their tenants to be as free from duties there as heretofore, and stipulate that the abbot, &c., shall not wantonly fill up the said flete. It is provided that the prior, &c., shall have all their maritime customs in the haven of Sandwich on both sides of the river agreeably to the tenor and operation of their charters, as they used to

have, allowing, however, to the abbot, &c., their accustomed rule and usages in Stonar and their lands there, and all their maritime customs appendant by charters to their possessions beyond Hennebergh towards Cliffsend, Ramsgate, Margate, Westgate, and other places in Thanet, and on the other side of the haven in their manor of Northbourne, the river as before being excepted. The prior and chapter permit the abbot and convent, with their proper domestics, to pass free of expense in the ferry-boat over the river; but the privilege is not extended to their tenants. The prior of Christ Church while he had the customs of the port of Sandwich received 2d. for every cask of wine imported.

In the year 1270, a Flemming having been murdered by some of his countrymen on the sea shore at Stonar, above high water mark, the lord abbots bailiff there made pursuit after the murderers with hue and cry, and finding the brother of the deceased and four of his friends with the body in the vill of Stonar he apprehended them and committed them to prison. Three days afterwards there was a court held there by the abbot's steward, before whom they were arraigned of the murder, and pleading not guilty they put themselves for trial upon the vill of Stonar. Upon which Simon Wybert, the mayor of Sandwich, with many others of that place came and demanded the prisoners for trial

at the hundred court at Sandwich, alleging that the abbot neither had nor ought to have any such court or privilege of trying offenders, and that whatever he did of that sort must be to the prejudice of the prior of Christ Church and of the corporation of Sandwich. To whom it was replied that the abbot would do no injury to the prior in this business, because before the prior had any right in Sandwich, the abbot of St. Augustine had Stonar with all its liberties, by gift and grant of sundry kings of England, and by confirmation of the reigning prince, to hold it as freely as any king had held it heretofore; and it was farther set forth that it had been already settled between the two churches by composition, that the land above high water mark towards Stonar was to belong to the abbot. The corporation was told that the abbot did not wish to do anything contrary to the liberty of Sandwich, being himself a combaron of that place and their peer, and it was requested of them not to obstruct or disturb the abbot in the exercise of those privileges which he had been used of right to enjoy in Stonar. Upon this the clamour abated, and the men of Stonar were charged to make diligent enquiry and to bring in a true verdict, who acquitted the prisoners; whereupon the steward made proclamation that in the opinion of the court the prisoners were free and acquitted.

In the year 1280, a writ of enquiry issued at the suit of the abbot of St. Augustine, setting forth that he has a wall of sand and stone between Stonar and Cliffsend, by which his manor of Minster is protected from the rage of the sea, and that the people of Sandwich by force dig up the materials and carry them away in their boats, and will not allow the abbot's officers to distrain in a legal way for the trespass, but even bring armed men in their boats for the purpose of preventing such distress, and that he has a marsh belonging to himself, in right of his barony between Stonar and Ebbsfleet, into which the people of Sandwich come without leave, and against the peace and consent of the said abbot, dig the soil and carry it away in their boats by force to Sandwich, for filling up and repairing their wharfs, and bring armed men with them as aforesaid for their protection; and further, that he has a market and fair in his manor of Minster on his own ground, to which the men of Sandwich resort and there hire ground and thereon set up stalls, for which they refuse to pay stallage; and when his bailiffs distrain them for the same according to custom, they make reprisal and seize his rents to the amount of 20s. within the town of Sandwich. The said abbot further sets forth that he had a wind-mill and a water-mill in the same marsh, from which he used to

receive yearly 50 quarters of corn, which were burnt by the men of Sandwich.

The mayor and bailiffs, with others of the town of Sandwich, appear and say that they have always hitherto had this privilege among the liberties granted to the ports-men by the kings of England, and that they may not be impleaded or answer to any plea except in the town of Sandwich, and they request that their franchise on this point may not be injured. Being asked whether the town of Stonar belonged to the port of Sandwich and was claimed by them as a member of the said port, they replied that it belonged to the port of Sandwich.

The liberties and privileges claimed by the barons of Sandwich in the town of Stonar, were,—

First, they claim the whole soil of the town of Stonar to the cross of Hennebergh, and from thence eastward to the sea opposite Pepperness, and westward to the river opposite the stone cross beyond Monken key in Sandwich, to be as free as the soil in Sandwich.

They claim also, that every year in the week after the choice of mayor and jurats in Sandwich, or at any other time more convenient to the said mayor and jurats, they may pass over to Stonar, the common wardmen carrying the common horn before the mayor: which is to be blown at certain places in Stonar, and proclamation to be made commanding the commonalty of Stonar to

assemble before the mayor and jurats in Stonar church: at which assembly the mayor, with the assent of his brethren and of the commonalty of Stonar, shall appoint a reputable person of Stonar to be his deputy, to execute the office of mayoralty there in holding courts and in following the ordinances and customs used at Sandwich. The mayor likewise appoints six or eight of the better sort of inhabitants there to execute the office of jurat, in the same manner as it is exercised at Sandwich.

They further claim, that there be no other judge of the crown or coroner within the limits of Stonar, except the mayor of Sandwich with his brethren.

They also claim, that all pleas of the crown, all pleas of land and other pleas, except what are reserved for the court of Shepway, may and ought to be heard and terminated in Stonar before the mayor of Sandwich in court; so that the abbot of St. Augustine's Canterbury may have there one bailiff to make summons, attachments and executions, as the king's bailiff does at Sandwich.

Pleas of the crown and pleas of land happening within the limits of the town of Stonar are held every three weeks, every plea according to the nature of the plaint as it is entered; and these may be held before the mayor of Sandwich in person. But all other pleas not belonging to the court of Shepway, may be heard and

terminated before the deputy at Stonar; except in difficult cases, which are to be respited and submitted to the mayor and jurats of Sandwich. The pleas which are cognizable by the deputy, if they be between two freemen, are to be held once a week on Wednesday; and such as are between two strangers, or when one of the parties is a stranger, are to be held from day to day.

They claim that when a freeman of Stonar is to be fined upon a verdict or nonsuit, the fine is to be set by the mayor, or his deputy, and the jurats; and that the abbot's bailiff ought not to distrain any freeman for such fine, till it has been taxed by the said mayor and jurats or their deputy.

They claim, that all punishment and correction of the bakers, brewers, scolds and other delinquents duly ordered or to be ordered, and all regulations lawfully established or to be established for maintaining and keeping the peace of our lord the king and the state or the corporation of Stonar, ought to be ordered and adjudged by the deputy and his brethren the jurats in Stonar, in the same manner as is done at Sandwich; and the issues thence arising to be levied for the use of the corporation of Sandwich; because the corporation of Sandwich sustain the burden of the king's service and many other charges equally for the corporation of Stonar as for themselves.

They claim also to have the disposal of orphans at Stonar, as at Sandwich.

And to have the disposal of the goods and chatels of intestates at Stonar, as at Sandwich.

And likewise to have before them, within the precincts of Stonar, recognizances of lands, tenements and debts of all kind, in the manner used at Sandwich.

They claim also that, whenever any free rent of a tenement or of land within the liberty of Stonar has been due by the space of a year and a day or more, during which time no distress could be found upon the premises to the value of the rent, the owner, at the next court held at Stonar for pleas of land, may demand to have a post put down upon the tenement or land, as is the custom at Sandwich. And if no one in court objects to it, it shall be so adjudged. When the post is putting down, proclamation should be made, that, if any man or woman objects to the measure, or will pay the arrears of rent and acknowledge himself for tenant in future, he may come forth, or make application within 40 days, to do what the law in that case requires; or otherwise, at the next hundred court after the expiration of the 40 days, possession will be given, in the same manner as at Sandwich.

Henry Jones, Printer, New Street, Sandwich.

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